TASMANIA-WIDE AI-ENABLED GOVERNANCE AND TRANSPARENCY FRAMEWORK BILL 2026

A Bill for an Act to establish a statewide framework for the safe, transparent and accountable use of Artificial Intelligence in the Tasmanian public sector; to create governance obligations for agencies; to protect the rights of Tasmanians affected by AI-assisted decisions; and for related purposes.

PART 1 — PRELIMINARY

1. Short Title

This Act may be cited as the *AI-Enabled Governance and Transparency Framework Act 2026*.

2. Commencement

This Act commences on a day to be proclaimed.

3. Objects of the Act

The objects of this Act are to: (a) ensure that the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in the Tasmanian public sector is **safe, transparent, accountable and human-centred**; (b) promote **public trust** in government decision-making involving AI; (c) establish **minimum governance, risk-management and transparency standards** for all agencies; (d) ensure that significant decisions affecting individuals or communities remain subject to **human oversight**; (e) protect the rights of Tasmanians to understand, contest and seek review of AI-assisted decisions; and (f) support the development of **responsible AI capability** across the State.

4. Interpretation

Defines key terms including:

- *Artificial Intelligence (AI)*
- *Automated Decision System (ADS)*
- *High-Risk AI System*
- *Agency*
- *Human-in-the-loop*
- *Significant Decision*
- *AI Transparency Statement*
- *AI Impact Assessment (AIIA)*

PART 2 — STATEWIDE AI GOVERNANCE FRAMEWORK

5. Application of the Act

This Act applies to: (a) all Tasmanian Government departments, State authorities, statutory bodies, and government-owned corporations; (b) any contractor or service provider performing functions on behalf of the State.

6. Mandatory AI Governance Standards

(1) The Minister must issue **Statewide AI Governance Standards**. (2) Agencies must comply with the Standards, which must include requirements relating to:

- risk classification of AI systems;
- data quality and provenance;
- bias detection and mitigation;
- model explainability;
- cybersecurity and model security;

- procurement and vendor obligations;
- record-keeping and auditability.

7. AI Impact Assessments (AIIA)

(1) An agency must complete an AIIA before deploying any High-Risk AI System. (2) The AIIA must assess:

- purpose and expected benefits;
- risks to individuals, communities and vulnerable groups;
- potential for bias or discrimination;
- privacy and data-handling implications;
- human oversight arrangements;
- mitigation strategies. (3) A summary of each AIIA must be published on a public register.

8. Human Oversight Requirements

(1) All Significant Decisions must include **human-in-the-loop** review. (2) AI systems must not be used to make final determinations in:

- child safety matters;
- criminal justice decisions;
- eligibility for essential services;
- decisions with irreversible or life-altering consequences.

PART 3 — TRANSPARENCY AND PUBLIC RIGHTS

9. AI Transparency Statements

Agencies must publish an AI Transparency Statement for each AI system in operational use, including:

- purpose and function;
- data sources;
- whether the system influences or determines decisions;
- human oversight arrangements;
- known limitations.

10. Right to Explanation

A person affected by an AI-assisted decision has the right to: (a) be informed that AI was used; (b) receive a meaningful explanation of how the decision was reached; (c) request human review of the decision.

11. Right to Contest and Review

(1) Individuals may seek internal review of any AI-assisted decision. (2) Agencies must ensure review processes are accessible, timely and free of charge.

PART 4 — TASMANIAN AI CAPABILITY UNIT

12. Establishment of the AI Capability Unit

(1) The *Tasmanian AI Capability Unit* is established within the Department of Premier and Cabinet. (2) The Unit's functions include:

- supporting agencies to implement this Act;
- providing training and capability development;
- maintaining statewide AI standards;
- conducting audits of High-Risk AI Systems;
- advising the Minister on emerging risks and opportunities;
- coordinating partnerships with universities and industry.

13. Powers of the Unit

The Unit may:

- require agencies to provide information;
- conduct compliance audits;

- issue improvement notices;
- recommend suspension of non-compliant AI systems.

14. Annual Public Report

The Minister must table an annual report in both Houses of Parliament detailing:

- all AI systems in use across government;
- results of audits and compliance activities;
- incidents, breaches or system failures;
- progress in capability development;
- recommendations for legislative or policy reform.

15. Independent Review of the Act

(1) The Act must be independently reviewed after 3 years. (2) The review must consider technological developments, community expectations and national reforms.

PART 6 — OFFENCES AND ENFORCEMENT

16. Non-Compliance

Agencies that fail to comply with mandatory standards or transparency obligations may be subject to:

- Ministerial directions;
- public reporting of non-compliance;
- suspension of AI system use.

17. Protection of Individuals

No person may be penalised solely on the basis of an AI-generated prediction or risk score.

PART 7 — MISCELLANEOUS

18. Regulations

The Governor may make regulations for the purposes of this Act.